## **Kunar Province**

### **OVERVIEW**

USAID estimated support for Kunar from January 2002 - June 2011: \$121.3 million

Estimated Population: 401,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of

Afghanistan 2008-2009) Capital: Asadabad Note: U.S.-led PRT



The small province of Kunar is located in the rugged mountains along the border with Pakistan. This area is rich in mineral resources and holds more than 1,000 tourmaline, kunzite, and aquamarine mines. The area is also heavily forested, and although forestry and mining are not yet streamlined or regulated activities, they represent a potentially high source of revenue for the province. At present, Kunar's economy is driven by agriculture and animal husbandry and hosts a mainly Pashtun population, with minority Gujar and Mushwani groups.

### **AGRICULTURE**

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

**Summary:** USAID focuses on enabling farmers to transition from subsistence to surplus farming through providing seeds and fertilizers, livestock development, training, and improved irrigation and market infrastructure.

### **Current Activities:**

- Provide credit to commercial farmers for the purpose of purchasing agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers
- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation, or loss of biodiversity
- Expand the farm service center machinery services coverage area to include Narang and Sarkano districts
- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Provide technical assistance to orchard beneficiaries in order to enhance their capacity for orchard management
- Rehabilitate irrigation and repair roads
- Provide tools for demonstration orchards that will be used for training

### **Accomplishments:**

Approved a loan of \$312,000 to Kunar Farm Service Center to extend credit to small commercial farmers



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- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Developed skills and created employment opportunities through cash-for-work projects, which led to increased agricultural production and improved linkages between rural communities and regional market centers
- Distributed \$557,000 in wages on nine cash-for-work projects
- Distributed seeds and fertilizer to more than 13,900 famers
- Employed 110 people from rural areas through two cash-for-work projects
- Established 70 demonstration plots and four village-based seed enterprises, and provided practical training to more than 830 farmers
- Established 88.2 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques for 396 farmers
- Established a farm service center that provides agricultural inputs and services, and has produced sales
  of \$2.5 million, created 28 full-time equivalent jobs, and trained 2,600 farmers in agriculture related
  activities
- Established five hectares of orchards and two demonstration vineyards
- Established one private full-service AgDepot farm store that provides agriculture supplies and services to support increased licit crop and livestock production as well as animal health benefitting 2,500 rural households, trained 1,300 individuals, increased sales by \$352,200, and created 21 full-time equivalent jobs
- Established orchards for 480 farmers through voucher distribution with 30,000 stone fruit, citrus, pomegranate, persimmon, and apple trees planted on 91 ha land
- Established three commercial demonstration farms and 30 small demonstration plots, which reached more than 1,600 farmers with training related to modern crop production practices
- Established two demonstration plots of wheat and rice
- Established two orchards on 49 hectares of land and distributed more than 19,700 of fruit and nut trees to more than 50 farm families
- Established two vineyard experimental trials to find adoptable and productive grape varieties
- Funded nine extensive wheat seed and fertilizer distribution projects, reaching 12,800 farmers who
  received nearly 1,300 metric tons (MT) of improved wheat seeds and fertilizers
- Funded six agriculture marketing and production support projects, including the distribution of 570 MT of high-yield vegetable seeds and fertilizers to 15,000 farmers in 130 villages
- Improved 56 km of roads and constructed or rehabilitated 101 km of irrigation structures, which provided improved irrigation to 5,420 hectares of land and 3,600 men and women from rural communities, who earned \$1.2 million in wages
- Distributed improved vegetable seeds to help intercrop 22 orchards
- Planted 14,000 trees to improve the environment and expand commercial forestry opportunities.
- Promoted healthy livestock through the establishment of one veterinary field unit and support of an avian influenza detection and outbreak management program and a livestock management program
- Provided improved vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and technical assistance for 5,600 farmers to increase productivity, improve farm-gate quality, and increase access to agricultural markets
- Provided training to more than 130 farmers and agriculture workers in crop production, post-harvest handling, packaging, and marketing for okra, tomato, eggplant, cucumber, and watermelon
- Provided vocational training opportunities for 90 disabled and vulnerable women to enable them to obtain employment, earn an income, and become more financially secure
- Rehabilitated government-owned nurseries in Mundakole and Ama districts



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- Supported 10 women-owned micro-businesses through a business mentorship program that includes small shops and a flour-selling enterprise in Asadabad, Noorgal, and Chawkay districts
- Supported the construction of a Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock demonstration/training center and the Asadabad City Mundakole Nursery
- Supported the provincial Kuchi Shura
- Trained 27,000 farmers in modern agricultural practices and 750 men and women in business skills

### **DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE**

**Goal:** Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

**Summary:** USAID supports democracy and governance in Kunar Province through activities that assist the justice sector, media, and civil-society.

### **Current Activities:**

- Support ongoing institutional capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting
  in more effective and transparent leadership
- Provide assistance to improve the ability of the mayor and municipal staff to respond to citizen needs and to provide essential public services such as power, water, sanitation, safe roads, and waste management
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations

### **Accomplishments:**

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 47 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 33 sitting
  judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for seven judicial
  candidates, providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts



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- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- To extend the reach of Afghanistan's central government, refurbished the government-owned radio station
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided institutional capacity building training to six civil-society organizations
- Awarded seven grants
- Trained 505 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

**Summary:** USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic growth in Kunar Province through providing business skills training, expanding access to telecommunications, and automating banking services.

### **Current Activities:**

• Support the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates

### **Accomplishments:**

- Installed nine district communications network centers and one Village Communications Network, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB)
   regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Kunar Mustofiat, which has
  dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue
  reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Trained 43 Kunar officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities



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- Customs staff received training on exemptions, valuation, tariffs, certificates of origin, smuggling, penalties, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Funded business skills training in nine districts for both men and women to enhance the capacity for economic growth
- Supported 380 small and medium enterprises through association grants, sector-specific training, and business skills training
- Provided marketplace development grants to improve bazaars in eight districts
- Founded seven and supported two existing business associations to provide services and support to the business community
- Successfully graduated 48 students as part of an internship program, assisting participants in finding permanent employment upon completion
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$1.8 million in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Established two Islamic investment and finance cooperatives with 1,387 members (one percent women)
- Disbursed more than \$1 million in sharia-compliant loans
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Kunar Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

### **EDUCATION**

**Goal:** Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks and skills training program.

**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Kunar Province through two national education projects. For example, the teacher development activity provides radio-based teacher learning courses and advanced learning programs for teachers who have not yet met full qualifications. Other USAID programs assist with the printing and distribution of textbooks, and a third local program vocational—education skills training program, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

### **Current Activities:**

- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Continue textbook support
- Provide skills training for out-of-school youth at the Kunar Construction Center

### **Accomplishments:**

- Constructed 10 schools
- Printed more than one million textbooks
- Supported skills training program such as masonry, electrical, plumbing, painting, and re bar placement for more than 380 unemployed youth

### **HEALTH**

**Goal:** Improve the access to and quality of health service delivery and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

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**Summary:** USAID's principal health investments in Kunar Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

#### **Current Activities:**

- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in six sentinel sites
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Establish provincial quality assurance committee to ensure skilled healthcare providers
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

### **Accomplishments:**

- Trained 10,400 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

**Summary:** The infrastructure program for Kunar Province focuses on the construction of roads and water facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the local economy using locally available materials.

### **Current Activities:**

- Design the rehabilitation of a 700 KW hydropower system to provide electricity to some 15,000 residents of Asadabad
- Increase the number of bore wells to improve access to potable water
- Build the Chawki to Khas Kunar Bridge and three km of road, linking communities and encouraging trade
- Maintain the Jalalabad to Asmar Road and strengthen the capacity of the Provincial Road Maintenance Unit of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

### **Accomplishments:**

- Completed close to 100 bore wells to provide potable water supply to residents of Nurgal and Sarkani
- Rehabilitated the 90 km Jalalabad to Asmar provincial road, shortening travel time, improving economic
  opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions
- Trained local workers on cobblestone road construction, boosting local capacity to improve the transportation infrastructure
- Rehabilitated one rural sanitation system, improving hygiene and sanitation for residents

### **STABILIZATION**

## **Kunar Province**

**Goal:** Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

**Summary:** USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

### **Current Activities:**

- Provide more permanent solutions to ensuring protection against future flooding with activities such as rehabilitating flood walls, cleaning damaged ditches and repairing canals
- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community
  development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and
  community works projects enable the urban poor to support themselves and their families)

### **Accomplishments:**

- Constructed one provincial building and one district government building and rehabilitated the Asadabad Shura Hall and Community Center to expand governance capacity
- Trained 117 beneficiaries on information technology and management
- Provided nine governance capacity-building training activities benefitting 330 local government officials
- Rehabilitated provincial and district government offices and tertiary roads
- Constructed public toilets, wells, water supply systems, foot bridges, and micro-hydropower plants
- Improved and rehabilitated community hydro infrastructure, especially irrigation systems, through 45 community stabilization grants and 28 community development projects
- Provided working-aged males with livelihood alternatives through on-the-job vocational training in metalwork, carpentry, and tailoring
- Provided livestock management training in basic herd management and animal health and hygiene to 90 farmers in Lechey, La Husain, and HilalZo districts
- Provided kitchen, bedroom and hygiene kits to approximately 630 families living in Sholtan Valley who were displaced by kinetic operations
- Improved access to electricity in Tarara and Khara Villages in Dara-i-pech District by constructing a micro-hydro power station
- Increased capacity of Marawara, Sarkani and Khas Kunar district governments through training for 84 beneficiaries in the management and delivery of government services and development of public outreach strategies
- Improved community infrastructure through more than 60 stabilization projects in the districts of Pech, Marawara, Shigal and Sarkani including small-scale, community-based projects such as road improvements, street and footbridge repairs, flood protection, improving water systems, and irrigation and drainage ditch repairs
- Refurbished government facilities, including provision of locally produced furniture
- Supported the Kunar Construction Center, which provided vocational training for more than 600 unemployed young men in masonry, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work
- Helped 52,300 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment